

CLAIMS

1. A method of detecting the presence of digitally modulated data signals, the method including differentially decoding the digitally modulated signals into oversampled complex signals comprising n samples per bit, forming a running sum of successive groups of m samples, where m is less than n , deriving an absolute value for the successive running sums, weighting the absolute value and determining the presence of data by comparing the weighted absolute value with a threshold level.

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2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the absolute value is weighted by comparing the absolute value with a plurality of threshold values of different magnitudes, the difference between threshold values of successive magnitudes comprising a window having a weighting value assigned to it, and in that the weighted absolute value is a product of the absolute value and a determined weighting value.

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3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterised by estimating the power level from the product of the absolute value and its associated weighting value.

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4. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the digitally modulated signals comprise 2-FSK signals, characterised in that a constellation containing differentially decoded imaginary values is used to form the running sum.

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5. A receiver comprising means for receiving a digitally modulated signal, means for forming the digitally modulated signal into an oversampled, differentially decoded complex signal comprising a stream of n samples per bit, means for forming a running sum of successive groups of m samples, where m is less than n , means for deriving an absolute value for successive running sums, weighting means for weighting the respective absolute values,

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and a comparator for comparing the weighted absolute value with a threshold level and providing an output indicative of the presence of data in the received signals.

- 5 6. A receiver as claimed in claim 5, characterised in that the weighting means comprises comparing means for comparing the derived absolute values with a plurality of threshold values and means for selecting a weighting value based on the result of the comparison, and in that multiplying means are provided for forming the weighted absolute value as a product of a
10 respective absolute value and its associated weighting value.

 7. A receiver as claimed in claim 5 or 6, characterised by a power level estimator coupled to an output of the multiplying means.

- 15 8. A receiver as claimed in claim 5 or 6, fabricated as an integrated circuit.

 9. A telemetry module including a receiver as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 8.